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Letter dated 5 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

I have the honour to refer to the national report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the universal periodic review (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GBR/1) and published on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (www.ohchr.org), which seeks to attribute the status of "British overseas territories" to the Malvinas, presenting them as separate from Argentina and referring to them by their British name only.

The Argentine Government recalls that the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the national territory of Argentina, that they are being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and that they are therefore the object of a dispute over sovereignty between the two countries which is recognized as such by the United Nations and other international organizations.

This illegal occupation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25, in which the General Assembly recognizes the existence of the dispute over sovereignty, which is referred to as the "question of the Malvinas", and urges the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations with a view to finding the means to resolve the dispute peacefully and definitively as soon as possible. The Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations has also repeatedly called for negotiations, most recently in a resolution adopted on 23 June 2016.

Given the above, the Government of Argentina rejects the attribution of the status of "British overseas territory" to this Argentine territory in the aforementioned document, and to other documents referred to therein.

The Argentine Republic also kindly requests you to take the necessary steps to ensure the correct application of editorial directive ST/CS/SER.A/42 of the United Nations Secretariat in all language versions of the aforementioned document, in order to reflect the existence of a dispute over sovereignty by including a footnote and the dual naming convention set forth in the directive.

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Lastly, the Argentine Government requests that this note verbale be distributed as an official document of the Human Rights Council.

(*Signed*) Marcelo **Cima**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative